Welcome!

We are pleased that you have found the library of potential use for your research. The Bentley Historical Library is open without fee to all researchers regardless of academic or professional affiliation. The library, as a repository of historical manuscripts, archives, photographs, maps, and printed works on the history of Michigan, serves two main purposes. First, we collect this documentation to ensure its availability and preservation for generations to come. Secondly, we encourage its use by people interested in Michigan’s past.

Sometimes our commitment to the first purpose limits our capacity to respond to the second. Therefore, while using our holdings in the reading room, researchers are asked to observe the regulations [see page four], which have been established to create an atmosphere conducive to research while ensuring the continued preservation of the collections. Thank you for acquainting yourself with our reading room procedures.

History can be as interesting as it is important. The staff of the Bentley Library hopes your visits here will be worthwhile and productive. Please do not hesitate to seek assistance from our staff at any time.

- Francis X. Blouin, Director since 1981
AFRICAN AMERICAN COLLECTIONS
In 1985-86 the Bentley Historical Library analyzed its collection development plan and determined that more emphasis needed to be placed on the identification and accessioning of historical records from and about Michigan’s African American community. The collecting plan called upon the field staff to concentrate its efforts on the Black churches in Detroit, because of these institutions’ significance in their community/state/nation, not only in the area of religious development, but in education, politics, civil rights, social concerns, and community service as well. To view more collections on this topic, please consult the African Americans in Michigan

ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS
The Bentley Historical Library includes in its holdings many collections of architectural drawings by nationally and internationally-known architects. These architects include George Brigham, Gunnar Birkerts, Albert Kahn, Robert Metcalf, William Muschenheim, and Pond and Pond to name but a few. A particular strength in the Bentley Library holdings is mid-century modern architecture. Please consult the Architects, Architecture, and Landscape Design subject guide for more information.

CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS
The Bentley Historical Library holds many collections documenting the Civil Rights Movement.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS MATERIAL
The Bentley Historical Library has one of the largest collections of Philippine Island materials outside of the Philippine Islands. Every year scholars from all over the world come to study these papers.

POLITICS
The Bentley Historical Library has a long history of collecting the personal papers of Michigan’s public servants whether they served in the local, state, national or international sphere. In his March 17, 1965 letter, Ford agreed to deposit his papers at the University of Michigan. (Donor File, Bentley Historical Library) The Gerald Ford papers came to the Bentley Historical Library in annual accretions until Ford’s nomination to become Vice President after Spiro Agnew left office in 1973. When Richard M. Nixon resigned the presidency on August 9, 1974, Gerald Ford became the 38th President of the United States. After his defeat in the 1976 election, plans were developed for his Presidential Library and Museum. Because of his familiarity with the Bentley Library, his friendship with the Bentley Library’s director,

SOCIAL ACTIVISTS
The John and Leni Sinclair papers came to the library in 1979. The initial accession, covering the period 1957-1979, contained textual material, sound recordings, and photographs relating to all phases of their careers, including participation in the Artists’ Workshop in Detroit, the Rainbow Multi-Media Corporation, the White Panther Party and its offshoot, the Rainbow Peoples Party. There

TRANSPORTATION IN MICHIGAN
The Pennsylvania Railroad Company was formed in 1846 and expanded rapidly in the 1860s and 1870s, eventually controlling over 800 corporations. The New York Central Railroad Company was organized in 1853 and merged with the Hudson River Railroad in 1869 to form the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad; in 1914 the name was again changed to the New York Central Railroad Company.

UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS
The records of the University of Michigan Athletic Department document the participation of the University of Michigan Athletic teams in intercollegiate competition from 1864 to the present. These records include over 210 linear feet and 14 outsize boxes of media guides, including game programs and other print material, press releases, team and individual statistics, photographs, approximately 1500 reels of film and videotape, development and fundraising material, and a variety of accounts, audits and other administrative records.

“I will open my mouth in a parable
I will utter dark sayings of old.
Things that we have heard and known, that our fathers told us.
We will not hide them from their children, but tell it to the coming generations.” -Psalm 78:1-4
A Day in the Life of an Archivist

Today the Bentley Historical Library is made up of three divisions:
- the Michigan Historical Collections (MHC) which documents Michigan and Michigan's people
- the University Archives and Records Program (UARP) which serves as the University of Michigan archives
- Reference and Access Services, which assists reading room researchers and remote researchers in answering their questions.

First, the staff members of MHC and UARP bring the papers, records, photographs, maps, audiovisual material, architectural drawings, etc. into the building, arrange them in a usable order (if necessary), re-folder and re-box them in acid-free folders and boxes (if necessary), describe the material in a finding aid, and create a catalog record for MIRLYN - (Michigan Research Library Network).

The Reference and Access Services staff not only help researchers with their research strategies, teach them to use the various research tools, i.e. MIRLYN, finding aids, subject guides and indexes, and digital publications, but also provide orientations to classes and groups throughout the campus, community, and state to help familiarize them with the resources of the library. The photographs below show staff and former staff performing some of these tasks.

Directions to the Bentley:
1150 Beal Avenue Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2113 U.S.A.
Phone: (734) 764-3482 Fax: (734) 936-1333

From UM Central Campus to Bentley Historical Library
Turn Left (North) onto State Street. Stay on State until it deadends, then turn Right. At the first light, turn Left onto Fuller. Stay on Fuller past the main entrance to North Campus and turn Left onto Beal. The Bentley Library will be the second building on your Right.

From UM North Campus (2101 Bonisteel) to Bentley Historical Library
Head one block East on Bonisteel. At the stop sign, turn Right onto Beal. The Bentley Library will be on your Left.
It’s truly “White Gloves” treatment at the Bentley

PRELIMINARY STEPS AND SECURITY FOR ON-SITE USE OF THE COLLECTIONS

Our responsibility for proper care of the unique materials entrusted to us requires us to institute the following safeguards in the reading room:

• Researchers must leave coats and other outerwear in the coatroom.

• All briefcases, book bags, handbags, books, newspapers, and other personal belongings must be left in the coatroom. Coin-returned lockers are located in the coatroom requiring a 25¢ deposit, which is returned when the locker is opened.

• Cell phone and scanner use is prohibited in the reading room.

• Researchers are required to leave identification at the Reference Desk to be returned to the researcher once he or she has relinquished all materials. Acceptable forms of identification are: Driver’s License, U of M Student, Faculty, or Staff Identification, Passport, or other forms accepted by the Reference Archivist. Photo identification is preferred. We appreciate your understanding of the concern we have for the long-term guardianship of these materials.

• Laptop computers, digital cameras, note paper, and note cards, may be taken into the reading room. Outlets for laptop computers are available at every table. Personal materials used in the reading room may be searched when the researcher leaves.

• Each researcher must fill out a researcher registration form during their first visit to the Bentley and sign the register book at each subsequent visit. Signing the registration form signifies that the researcher has read the “Guide to Use of the Bentley Historical Library” and agrees to abide by its policies.

• Any person found stealing, defacing, mutilating, or in any way damaging materials will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

REQUESTING MATERIAL

Researchers must fill out call slips for each box or item requested. Call slips are retained by the library for security purposes.

To help us provide maximum physical protection for the records, please follow these procedures:

• Use materials only in the reading room. Materials may not be removed to any other area of the building.

• Take notes either in pencil or in ballpoint pen. Laptop computers, cameras and recording devices are also permitted, provided that their use does not disturb other researchers and that such use does not physically damage the collection nor incur copyright infringement.

• Make no marks on the materials. Do not write notes on top of materials or rest books or other objects on the surface of items used. Do not lean on materials. Tracing is not permitted.

• In handling either photographs or photographic negatives, wear gloves provided by the reference staff. Handle any photographic image by the edges.

• Only one box or five books may be used at a time. Remove only one folder at a time. Put folders and items back in the same order and facing the same way you received them.

• Researchers may eat and drink in the lounge. In accordance with University of Michigan policy, the Bentley Library prohibits smoking.

• Cell phones are not to be used in the reading room, if brought in, they must be turned off or set to vibrate. Cell phones can be used in the foyer.

ORDERING DUPLICATION OF MATERIALS

Ask the reference staff for assistance and information about the possibility of duplication. Upon request the reference staff will provide researchers with written instructions for duplication.

DO NOT REMOVE ITEMS FROM THE COLLECTION

The library reserves the right to restrict duplication.

The Reference Staff will endeavor to provide photocopy orders of ten pages or less on the same day. Larger photocopy orders will generally be ready within 48 hours and orders for photograph and audio-visual materials will take approximately two weeks to complete.

COPYRIGHT OF UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS

Researchers may further investigate the Library’s policies on

• Copyright protections

• “Fair Use” limitation on exclusive rights of the author

• Making copies for private study

• Permission to publish

• Additional copyright information

• The use of libelous statements or invasion of privacy

The researcher, by signing the researcher registration card, agrees not to quote, publish, reproduce, or display the copy in whole or in part without permission. Copies may not be further duplicated, nor deposited in or given to other institutions without the written permission of the director of the library. Copies may not be sold or lent to any other individual.

The researcher, by signing the researcher registration card, agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Board of Regents of the University of Michigan and the Bentley Historical Library and its staff against all suits, claims, actions, and expenses arising out of his/her use of unpublished materials here.
Alvin Morell Bentley III (August 30, 1918 – April 10, 1969) was a Michigan politician. As a U.S. representative, he made national headlines as one of the victims of the 1954 U.S. Capitol shootings.

The only child of Alvin M. Bentley, Jr., and Helen Webb Bentley, was born in Portland, Maine only three months before his father died serving in France during World War I. Although fatherless, Bentley was heir to a family fortune, from his grandfather who founded the Owosso Manufacturing Company.

He graduated in 1934 from Southern Pines High School in Southern Pines, North Carolina and in 1936 from Asheville Prep School in Asheville, North Carolina. He received his bachelor’s degree in 1940 from the University of Michigan and attended Turner’s Diplomatic School, Washington, D.C., to qualify for the U.S. diplomatic service.

He served as vice consul and secretary with the United States Foreign Service, serving in Mexico, Colombia, Hungary, and Italy. He returned to Washington, D.C., in 1950, for work in the State Department.

Disagreeing with the Truman administration’s foreign policy, Bentley resigned from the diplomatic service in 1950 and returned to live in Owosso, Michigan. He was a delegate to Republican State conventions in 1950, 1951, and 1952. He was vice president of Lake Huron Broadcasting Company, Saginaw MI, in 1952, and a director of Mitchell-Bentley Corporation.

In 1952, Bentley defeated the incumbent Republican U.S. Representative Fred L. Crawford in the primary election for Michigan’s 8th congressional district and went on to win in the 1952 general election. Bentley was elected to the Eighty-third and to the three succeeding Congresses, serving from January 3, 1953 to January 3, 1961. He was not a candidate for re-nomination in 1960, instead running for a seat in the United States Senate and losing to Democratic incumbent Patrick V. McNamara in the 1960 general election.

Bentley was one of five Representatives shot on March 1, 1954, in the U.S. Capitol shooting incident when four Puerto Rican nationalists opened fire from the visitors’ balcony into the chamber of the United States House of Representatives. Bentley was shot in the chest, but survived.

From 1961 to 1962, Bentley was a delegate from the 15th Senatorial District to the Michigan State Constitutional Convention, which produced the Michigan state constitution adopted in 1963. In 1962, Bentley again ran for the U.S. House for a one-term, at-large seat created as a result of the 1960 U.S. Census, but he lost in the general election to Democrat Neil Staebler. He continued public service by receiving appointments to education-related positions in the state. Also, after leaving Congress in 1961, he had returned to the University of Michigan as a graduate student in the History department.

While continuing to maintain offices in Washington, D.C., Bentley commuted by air to Ann Arbor to attend classes. He received an M.A. degree in 1963. In 1966, while pursuing a doctoral degree, Governor George W. Romney appointed him to the board of regents of the University of Michigan.

He died, aged 50, while on vacation in Tucson, Arizona of an “inflammation affecting the central nervous system”. Bentley had been confined to a wheelchair for two years after “corrective surgery” when his condition suddenly worsened. He is interred in Oak Hill Cemetery in Owosso, Michigan.

In 1971, his widow, Arvella D. Bentley, gave a generous donation to the University of Michigan’s “Michigan Historical Collections”, enabling it to construct a new building which was subsequently renamed the Bentley Historical Library.

[SOURCE: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia]
Heritage News • March 2013

Destroyed historical marker will be replaced

Rev. Dr. JoAnn Kennedy Slater took her usual morning walk around St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in late January only to discover shards of brittle white material on the ground directly below where the building’s historical marker had been. As rector of the historic church on North Huron Street, she began to reach out to the source of the awarded marker.

First, she telephoned the Ypsilanti Historical Museum down the street where she was told it was the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation that awards the markers. They connected her with Bill Nickels of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation.

Nickels reported, “She desperately would like the marker replaced - I told her the Heritage Foundation is committed to installing and maintaining markers at no charge to the owners. She would very much like to pay for a new marker, but I insisted we would replace it free of charge.”

Rev. Kennedy Slater also filed a police report on the incident, but was more concerned about replacement of the valued marker and its relationship to the historic value of the building.

Slater noted, “Being a historic building serves as a visual witness to St. Luke’s long commitment to the Ypsilanti community; and being a historic building also complements the history, faith and polity of our denomination. The Episcopal Church has always been a powerful witness for social justice and has been a faithful and supportive presence in the struggles of ‘Seneca Falls, Selma, and Stonewall.’ St. Luke’s is a place literally grounded in Ypsilanti history with a commitment to the city’s future in living out those values and opportunities for all God’s people.”

Episcopalian have worshipped in Ypsilanti for nearly two centuries. In the late 1820s missionaries preached to the area’s first settlers and Rev. Silas C. Freeman and Andrew Cornish founded St. James’s Church in 1830. The congregation held services in homes and the village hotel and was one of the six founding parishes of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan. In 1837, the church reorganized as St. Luke’s. In June 1858 the present sanctuary, designed by architects Anderson & Jordan of Detroit, was consecrated.

As the congregation grew, the church added the Church House in 1928 and the Parish House in 1955. In 2001, the church appointed its first female rector, JoAnn Kennedy Slater, who replaced Jasper Pennington upon his retirement.

Nickels contacted Heritage Foundation board members, saying, “We occasionally get to understand the value of what we do in the community. This is one of those times. St. Luke’s is proud of their historic structure and appreciates their marker which probably translates to them properly taking care of their buildings.”

YHF plans to replace the marker in the same spot the vandalized marker was located. The holes are already drilled, Nickels says, and the job should not be difficult.

Tiffany window is preserved

Ypsilanti’s Heritage Foundation and Historical Society cooperated in a special program to dedicate the restoration of the Mary Ann Starkweather Tiffany window from the original Ladies’ Library Association now on permanent display in the Ypsilanti Historical Museum.

Project Coordinator Denis Schmiedeke and Dirk Thomson III, CEO of Brighton’s Thompson Art Glass Studios, made the heroic effort to save the priceless Ypsilanti artifact and Donald Randazzo built the surround to display and protect the artifact. But historians still seem confused about the subject of the elegant and historic Arts & Crafts design.

A robed woman sits with a book and stylus in the center panel. An hourglass (1) drains its sand in the top panel and an oil lamp (2) burns in the bottom panel; both are surrounded by wreaths of jeweled glass.

A dubious conclusion: Amateur sleuths suggest the design is an early advertisement for the Evelyn Wood Speed Reading Institute.
The meaning and origin of the popular English nursery rhyme “There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe” is still debated. But whether you think the “old woman” was a historical female figure of the day or King George II (1683–1760) or not, Ypsilantians agree that Mary Ann Starkweather set a better example for those lyrics.

The most common version of the rhyme is:
There was an old woman who lived in a shoe.
She had so many children, she didn't know what to do;
She gave them some broth without any bread;
Then whipped them all soundly and put them to bed.

The earliest printed version in Joseph Ritson’s Gammer Gurton’s Garland in 1794 has the more coarse last line:
She whipp'd all their bums, and sent them to bed.

Many other variations were printed in the 18th and 19th centuries. Marjorie Ainsworth Decker published a Christian version of the rhyme in The Christian Mother Goose Book published in 1978:
There was an old woman who lived in a shoe,
She had so many children, and loved them all, too.
She said, “Thank you Lord Jesus, for sending them bread.”
Then kissed them all gladly and sent them to bed.

Mary Ann Newberry (above) married John Starkweather in 1839 and moved to a farm near Ypsilanti. He died in 1883, and the following year Mrs. Starkweather inherited a small fortune from her father, the lumberman for whom the Upper Peninsula lumber town is named.

Since the Starkweathers had no children, she used her inheritance to make contributions to local charities, churches, and the City of Ypsilanti: the Hebe Fountain at Michigan & Huron, Starkweather Hall on the Michigan Normal School (EMU) campus, Starkweather Memorial Chapel at Highland Cemetery and, in 1890, turned over her home and all the books in it to the Ladies Library Association, establishing the city’s first library.

Starkweather Home/Ladies Library
Built in 1858, this wonderful brick building was a stop for the Underground Railroad. It was once home to the Ladies Library and also served as the city’s public library until the mid-1960s. Located on N. Huron Street and backing up to scenic Riverside Park, the Ladies Library provided a pleasant place for a stroll or a good read. Still standing today, the Ladies Library is currently being renovated inside for future plans.

Check out Visit Ypsilanti’s FaceBook page every Wednesday for more vintage postcards.

-Cory Hamlin, Marketing & Communications Assistant, Ypsilanti Area CVB
Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

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Hank Prebys, President
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Dedicated to the belief that one of Ypsilanti’s greatest resources is its historic architecture

See you at the General Meeting - Wednesday, 4 March, at 7:30 p.m.

Become a Member

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation encourages both private and public preservation efforts. Join today and see what we have to offer!

Visit the website at www.yhf.org to enter your name and address. Mail it along with a check for the appropriate amount to our treasurer. Our membership year runs from January-December. Make checks payable to: Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation c/o Claudia Pettit
945 Sheridan
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Annual Membership Categories
Students & Seniors $10
Individual $15
Family $20
(2 or more @ same address)
Contributing $50
Sustaining $100
Lifetime $1000

2012/2013 SCHEDULE
Meetings are held at the Ladies’ Literary Club,

20 MARCH
Fran Blouin, director
University of Michigan
Bentley Historical Library

22 MAY
Annual Marker Awards Banquet

Dipping into the archive is always an interesting, if sometimes unsettling, proposition. It often begins with anxiety, with the fear that the thing you want won’t surface. But ultimately the process is a little like tapping into the unconscious, and can bring with it the ambivalent gratification of rediscovering forgotten selves.

Rather than making new pictures, why can’t I just recycle some of these old ones? Claim “found” photographs from among my boxes? And have this gesture signify “resistance to further production/consumption”?

-Moyra Davey, Long Life Cool White: Photographs and Essays